[This transcript was created by LAI staff. It is as true a representation of the original as we could create. When a word was too difficult to decipher or was questionable we put those words in brackets. All text in brackets represents the voice of the transcriber rather than the voice of the letter writer. We have not maintained the spacing that exists in the original letters because that was not compliant with our accessibility standards. We are left justifying most lines.]

[citation information]
Collection title: Corcoran Gallery of Art and Corcoran College of Art + Design, Corcoran Gallery of Art directors' records
Collection number: COR-0002-0-RG
Series 1: MacLeod, Barbarin and McGuire records
Subseries 1: Indexed correspondence
Box 2008-001
Folder 48: Letters 471-480

[Front of Letter 471]
Weir, J.F., New Haven, Dec 15. 1874 (to Prof Henry)
Rel: to lecturing before the Trustees of the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

[Letter 471]

Yale College, New Haven
Dec 15th 1874

My Dear Sir,

Your two letters with reference to the lecture have been received. The first I delayed answering until I could clearly see whether it [were?] possible for me to deliver that lecture in Washington as I have proposed. My regular engagements having so fully occupied the time I can absent myself from my duties here.

The offer made Mr. Macleod was to repeat a lecture on Ghiberti & his celebrated Gates, in view of the fact that you have recently obtained casts of them for the Art Gallery. If I can affect it during my visit to Baltimore, early in January, I shall be pleased to fulfill my promise & as to the exact date - [which?] I find it must be after the 21st - I will consult with you. The usual lantern & screen is all that is necessary for the illustrations.

I must ask you to excuse the delay of my reply which was partially owing to my absence from New Haven. May I ask you to present my regards to your daughter whom I had the pleasure of meeting while visiting New Haven last Summer.

Very truly yours,
[Jos?] F. Weir

Professor Joseph Henry, Washington

[Front of Letter 472]
Avery, S.P., Dec 21. 1874,
Extract from a letter of Geo. H. Boughton, with regard to ["Irvingnell's"?] picture of "William the Testy" [&c?] 5'x6'. price £800.

[Letter 472]

Extract from a letter of Geo H. Boughton.
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"You want to know about the subject from Irving - well this it is. "William the Testy" issues an edict against smoking and it leads to a revolt, the dutchmen come and plant themselves before his front door and smoke defiance to his proclamation. He issues in great wrath and threatens all sorts of things, but finally has to give up the contest, in the sketch I have about 15 figures and [nine?] indicated, gathered about the "stoop" of the governor, who backed by his waspish brow is holding forth against the smokers.

You will note the introduction of Anthony Van Corlaer, the trumpeter seated on a candle box at the left, this will [give?] me a good point for color and character, then a few girls and old women will be introduced in the background with some children - what more could heart desire?

The shape of the picture will not be so square, and it will be in many ways an improvement in the rough sketches, as I shall invent and improve as I go on, so you see there will be 15 to 20 figures and lots of work. It is by long odds the best subject for character that I have yet happened on, and thoroughly artistic and original, it must be done on a good sized canvass, say 5 feet 6 or 6 feet.

Now I will do it for you for 800£ no less, and that will be cheap, much less than Bradford or Bierstadt get for an Iceberg or Landscape - only let me know as soon as you can" -

I will agree to deliver to the "Corcoran Art Gallery" the picture as above described and for the sum specified trusting to the artist for my commission. Being anxious for his sake that so important a work of his should find a place in such a national collection.

Sam P. Avery
Dec. 21/74

[Enclosure for Letter 473]
[Dray Ticket, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, Baltimore Dec 26, 1874]
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[Front of Letter 473]
Walters, W.T., Balt. Dec 26. 1874,
Dec 27/74
Encloses receipt (R.R.) for cases.

[Letter 473]

Balto 26th Dec 74
Mr. MacLeod

Dear Sir,

I enclose receipt for the cases sent today - I recvd the Portfolio today of photos for which I am most obliged.

Your friend,
W.T. Walters
I shall be glad to know how you like the things -

[Front of Letter 474]
Moore, [Mrs?] E.J., Montgomery Ala., Dec 26. 1874,
Dec 29/74, 29/74 by Mr. Hyde
Wishes to sell a portrait of Washington by Stuart for $1,000. (declined & notified)

[Letter 474]

[Note at top of letter - Rec: 29th Dec. & answered by Mr. Hyde, that it would be referred to the Trustees of the Art Gallery, and in the event of their taking any favorable action in the matter, she would receive notification of the fact.]

Bear with the Infirmaties of Old age - 74 years
Montgomery Dcr 28th 1874

To Mr. W W Corcoran

Dear Sir

Will you pardon an unknown Old Lady for trespassing on your time, Yesterday was Christmas and a sad Day to us, but for the Merry Faces of my little great grand Children I do not know what I should have done, it carried me back to the days of my Child when I had dear Parents many Brothers and Sisters to make Merry at the Old Home Stead now they have but 3 of us left all removed from the trials and troubles of this life, I have now but one Child left [illegible] with [illegible] we have been Widdows for a number of years and have struggled to raise our little

ones to be useful members of society before the Year we lived very comfortably we owned between us 30 Servants, large and small, at the end of the Year we were left without anything but the small Cottage we now live in, it is very much out of repair we have not been able to do anything towards repairing it it has taken all we could raise by the strictest [oeconemy?] to pay the Taxes on the place and Clothe and feed our Family in the plainest manner, it is impossible to get any work to do no writing as there is in your City that Ladies could get, I think about the first week in January new Taxes will be due and she told me yesterday she did not know what she should do she had not a Cent and no means of getting it will be about $120.00 this is a large sum for us we have always been opposed to borrowing rather suffer, I have parted with everything I had that was available but one Picture I have of Washington it is one of Stuarts best taken from Life he never Sat but for two and this is one of them I prize it very highly but will gladly part with it to aid her two sides of her Fencing to the Lot is down and we cannot repair it unless I can part with it it is now in the hands of an Artist in Philadelphia the Picture was Valued at 2500 I have been advised not to take less than $1500 but so great is my need I will take $1000 for it I have been advised to write to you, as a Man of large means and great Benevolence if you will not purchase it do you know anyone that would I can let you know I came in possession of it and give you the best of references as to who I am, If I fail in this I do not know what is to become of us

You will oblige me by an answer as quick as possible Direct to the care of my Grand Son

Mrs E.J. Moore
care of J.H. Riggs Box [219?] Montgomery Ala.

[Front of Letter 475]
Clements, A.H., Dec 28. 1874,
Dec 29. 1874,
Name of his picture.

[Letter 475]

Washington, Dec. 28th 1874

My Dear MacLeod,

I have been remiss in not having given you a word on the subject of my work which you Rightly received at the Corcoran Gallery - from me - a fortnight since, for which I pray you to excuse me.

The Subject is “The Light of the Sun - The Light of the Moon “The Light of the Stars”, and as you will perceive the expression is given particularly in the sky, and its influences upon the placid water.

Permit me to say that it is seen now under unfavorable [auspicies?] as the color has sunk very much, [is drying is?], which you well understand - and in it not having been well mounted in a suitable frame, both of which drawbacks can be easily remedied in the manner familiar to all artists.

I should be glad if your esteemed Committee would purchase it for the gallery which has been so nobly “Dedicated to Art” in our [illegible] as I am sure it will not suffer by comparison with any work of similar character nowhere.

Should the subject be Entertained by the Gentlemen under whose control the matter rests - an indication from you to that effect will be gratifying.

Wishing you the Compliments of the Season and many returns of the same.

I remain as ever, My Dear MacLeod, Sincerely Yours,
A.H. Clements

Dr. William MacLeod, Curator etc, etc, Washington, D.C.

[Letter 476]

[Letterhead of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; New York., Temporary Gallery 128 West Fourteenth Street]
December 28th 1874

Wm. MacLeod Esq., Curator Corcoran Gallery of Art

Dear Sir

I have now the pleasure of enclosing to you an acknowledgement of the receipt by the Trustees of this Institution of the Photographs forwarded with your favor of the 15th.

At their last meeting, the Executive Committee authorized the offer to the Corcoran Gallery of Art of a set of the Etchings, executed by the celebrated Mr. Jules Jacquemart, for our Museum, from some of the most valuable of its Pictures. I now [transcend?] the Etchings by Express, to your address, and hope that they will be received as a proof of our cordial desire to establish intimate relations with your and other Kindred Institutions.

I should explain that the Etchings are from Picture, enumerated in our Catalogue of Paintings by the Old Masters, of which you have copy.

Etching No	1	is from	Picture No	144
	2	“	“	120

3	“	“	150
4	“	“	128
5	“	“	118
6	“	“	119
7	“	“	152
8	“	“	121
9	“	“	138
10	“	“	172

I also send you, in the parcel, the [Albertyhe?], [from?] an Oil Painting, of which I spoke to you here. It represents a Seer discovered in Yucatan and both described and painted by Mr. Hayes. By mail I forward copy of our new Loan Catalogue. I have to thank you for copy of your new Catalogue.

Assuring you of our desire at all times to render [your?] service conducive of the interests of the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours very truly,
Tho. Bland
Asst. Secty

[Enclosure for Letter 476]
Met. Museum of Art, Thos Bland, Asst Secty., New York Dec 28/74
Official acknowledgement of receipt of a set of Photographs from the C.G of A
[Gift acknowledgement letter enclosed from Metropolitan Museum of Art President and Secretary, December 10, 1874]

[Front of Letter 477]
Met Museum of Art, Thos Bland Asst Secty
Dec 28. 1874,
Ack Recpt of a set of Photographs

[Letter 477]

[Letterhead of Metropolitan Museum of Art]
New York, 22 Dec. 1874

Wm MacLeod Esq, Corcoran Gallery of Art

Dear Sir,

I received your favor of the 15th and the Photographs presented to our Museum by the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

Your letter and the Photographs were laid before our Executive Committee last evening, and in the course of a very few days the formal acknowledgement will be [signed?] and sent to you, with a set of fine Etchings, executed for us in Europe from some of our Pictures.

Your views as [to?] an exchange of something more than [reports?] and Catalogues will meet with a cordial response from us. Our new Loan Catalogue is just out and copy shall be forwarded.

I will also send the pretty [Albert.tyhe?], published by the Museum of Natural History, which I mentioned when I had the pleasure of seeing you.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours very truly,
Tho. Bland, Asst Secty

[Front of Letter 478]
Museum of Fine Arts, C.C. Perkins, Boston, Dec 29./74
Ack the receipt of a set of Photographs from the C.G. of A.

[Letter 478]

[Letterhead of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Mass]

Dear Sir

Your two letters of the 15th & the 25th, together with the Report reached me this afternoon. The package of photography came safely to hand several days ago, and I [waited?] till I should hear from you before writing.

Thank you in the name of the Trustees, I send one of our large paper Catalogues of the Spanish pictures which you may be glad to have, and am with many thanks you my [illegible]

Charles C. Perkins, 2 Walnut St. Dec 29th 1874

[Letter 479]

Treasury of the United States, Washington, December 30, 1874

My dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the “Catalogue of the Corcoran Gallery of Art”, for which please accept my thanks.

Very respectfully yours,
[G.?] Spinner

Wm MacLeod, Esq, Washington, D.C.

[Back of Letter 479]
Spinner. [Gent?], Dec 30. 1874
Ack receipt of a Catalogue

[Front of Letter 480]
[Letter 480 was not scanned in correct page order]
Weir, John F., Yale College, [Jany 8.1878]
[Jany 9/7?]
Has directed the [Treas?] to remit $100 for Casts, [all?] were recvd in good condition. Will be in Balt Jany 11 & in Washington Jany 15

[Letter 480]

Yale College, New Haven, Jany 8th 1874

Mr. Wm MacLeod, Curator of the Corcoran Art Gallery

My dear sir,

Owing to the winter vacation and my own illness I have neglected to reply to your last note - as to recruit the [amt?] due for the Casts of the [Antoninus?] & the Lucius Verus $100

I have given directions for the Treasurer to send check by todays mail. The casts arrived in very good condition and we are very glad to have them. I must thank you for your interest in the matter.

I go to Baltimore on Monday, my lectures at the Peabody Institute begin on Tuesday. On Friday I will go to Washington to remain over until the following Tuesday, when I shall hope to see you.

I write in haste for the mail.

Very truly yours,
John F. Weir